



ENLIST Act

Encourage New Legalized Immigrants to Start Training Act (H.R. 60)

The ENLIST Act authorizes the enlistment in the Armed Forces certain undocumented immigrants who are otherwise qualified for enlistment and provides a way for the undocumented immigrants to be lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence by reason of their honorable service and sacrifice in the U.S. military.

- The legislation concerns only those aliens who entered the United States at an age younger than 15 and who have been continually present in the United States since December 31, 2012.
- Undocumented immigrants must fulfill terms of enlistment with honorable discharge or re-enlistment in order to receive full Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status.
- Undocumented immigrants are subject to the same background checks in place for any citizen, foreign national and non-citizen who is eligible to enlist in the military.
- Recruits under the ENLIST Act would provide the military a talent pool of young men and women, many of whom would have strategically valuable language and cultural competencies.
- The ENLIST Act Does NOT:
 - Give undocumented immigrants special benefits, nor would the policy create an opportunity or incentive to rush the border now.
 - Change immigration law or military naturalization law.
- Congress has seen fit to make military service a way for patriotic individuals from other countries to show allegiance to our flag and become U.S. Citizens. Almost half of Army enlistees in the 1840s were immigrants and more than 660,000 military veterans became citizens through naturalization between 1862 and 2000.
- Currently, non-citizens serve in our Armed Forces: many individuals here on student visas and employment based visas have special eligibility to join our Armed Forces and earn citizenship. Likewise, many Legal Permanent Residents serve in our Armed Forces as a way to earn citizenship, and so do foreign nationals from Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau.
- In the 1950s, Congress passed the now-expired Lodge Act, which allowed the military to recruit from Europe and other nation's overseas to fill critical needs.